

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 3, 2005. Claims 13 and 15-17 are presented for examination, all of which are in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12, 14 and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 13 and 15-17 have been amended to incorporate the recitations of their respective base claims. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 13 and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended each of Claims 13 and 15-17 into independent form, and consequently these claims are seen to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,051,857 (Miida); and Claims 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Miida* in view of JPA 58-137243 (Kunihiro). Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12, 14 and 18 have all been cancelled, and the remaining claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In particular, it is Applicants' current intention to file a divisional application, to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to

advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L.P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

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